

Message Text

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44

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TAGS: PFOR GR US

SUBJECT: GREEK PRESS REACTS WITH ANGER TO WASHINGTON POST

STORY

1. DUSKO DODER'S WASHINGTON POST PIECE ON THE ANTI-AMERICANISM OF THE ATHENS PRESS (DATELINED ATHENS JANUARY 9) HAS STIRRED UP A TEMPEST IN THE LOCAL PAPERS. IN REPLAYING THE DODER PIECE, LOCAL PAPERS HAVE HIGHLIGHTED TWO ASPECTS: (A) HIS ALLEGATION THAT ANTI-AMERICANISM IN THE PRESS HERE IS GROWING AND (B) HIS REPORT, BASED ON COMMENTS OF "RESPONSIBLE GREEK OFFICIALS," THAT NON-COMMUNIST GREEK PAPERS ARE RECEIVING COMMUNIST MONEY, WHICH MAY SUGGEST ECONOMIC MOTIVES FOR PRESS ATTACKS ON THE US.

2. IN GENERAL, ALL PAPERS EXCEPT THOSE OF THE RIGHT HAVE REACTED WITH OUTRAGE TO DODER'S PIECE. THE POST STORY IS INTERPRETED AS BEING A CONSPIRATORIAL ATTEMPT BY AMERICANS AND GREEK OFFICIALS TO MUZZLE THE GREEK PRESS. THE ALLEGATION THAT THE NON-COMMUNIST PRESS IS RECEIVING COMMUNIST MONEY HAS BEEN REJECTED BY MOST PAPERS AS "RIDICULOUS," "SPURIOUS," "CHEAP MALEVOLENCE," "FIGMENT OF THE IMAGINATION," ETC.

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3. IN ANALYZING ANTI-AMERICANISM THE PRESS HERE, FOLLOWING WHAT IS NOW A WELL ESTABLISHED THOUGHT PATTERN, SEEKS TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN GREEK OPPOSITION TO POLICIES OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND ITS FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND NATION, E.G. "WE GREEKS DO NOT FORGET THE FAVORS WE OWE TO THE HONORABLE LIBERAL AMERICANS...WHO STOOD BY OUR SIDE DURING THE PERIOD OF THE GREEK DICTATORSHIP...WE ALWAYS MAKE A VERY CLEAR DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN THE BLAMELESS AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE GREAT SINNER, THE GOVERNMENT, WHOSE VICTIMS IN THE LONG RUN ARE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES," (OPPOSITION, LIBERAL TO VIMA). OR "THE GREEKS HAVE ALWAYS FELT AND CONTINUE TO FEEL FRIENDSHIP TOWARDS AN AMERICAN NATION WHICH REMAINS FAITHFUL TO THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY AND INTERNATIONAL MORALITY...THE GREEKS ARE NOSTALGIV AND WANT TO SEE A RESTORATION OF THIS GENEROUS AND FREE THINKING AMERICA." (PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI).

4. SOMEWHAT MORE JARRING, BUT CHARACTERISTIC OF MUCH OF THE TONE AND LEVEL OF GREEK JOURNALISM ON THE US IS A COLUMN IN KATHIMERINI BY ITS PUBLISHER ELENI VLACHOU WHO, AFTER QUOTING AN EDITORIAL SHE WROTE TWENTY YEARS AGO TO DEMONSTRATE THAT TODAY'S ANTI-AMERICANISM (DIRECTED AGAINST "KISSINGER, "THE CIA," ETC) IS NEITHER NEW NOR UNJUSTIFIED, CONCLUDES BY STATING "AMERICANS PREFER GANGSTERS. AMERICANS PREFER DICTATORS. AMERICANS PREFER THE TURKS. IF THE UNFORTUNATE RICHARD WELCH HAD HAD THE THOUGHTLESSNESS TO KILLED IN ANKARA, WASHINGTON, I AM SURE, WOULD HAVE APOLOGIZED TO THE TURKS FOR THE ANNOYANCE."

5. THE ONLY DISSENT FROM THIS CHORUS WAS PROVIDED BY THE RIGHTWING ELEFTHEROS KOSMOS WHICH CONTRASTED THE GREEK PRESS USUAL ACCEPTANCE OF WASHINGTON POST STORIES CRITICAL OF UNITED STATES POLICIES WITH ITS OUTRAGE OVER THE DODER STORY.
KUBISCH

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